

## STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

## SUMMARY OF LIVESTOCK STATISTICS, MARCH 1954.

GENERAL. Particulars for the year ended March 1954, subject to slight revision, are shown in the following paragraphs with those for 1953 in parentheses. It will be seen that sheep flocks have decreased by 214,817 and cattle herds increased by 5,657. The cattle total is a record, but the increase this year was only 5,657 compared with an increase of 45,120 the previous year, there having been considerably increased slaughterings last year. There was an increase of 7,182 dairy cattle and a decrease of 1,525 beef cattle. The sheep total was the second highest on record. The decrease of 214,817 this year compared with an increase of 566,426 the previous year, but there were slightly increased slaughterings, drought losses and exports to the other States for the year ended March 1954 while there was a decrease in the number of lambs marked. Since 1946-47 the number of sheep has increased from 7,958,618 to 11,821,697 and cattle from 423,980 to 488,235. These facts, together with increased acreages of barley for grain from 502,005 to 1,119,663 and oats from 252,325 to 282,200, are in contrast to the decreased acreage for wheat from 2,518,948 to 1,528,239.

SHEEP. 11,821,697 (12,036,514) a decrease of 214,817 on the previous year and an increase of 5,035,159 on the 6,786,538 for the drought year 1946, and 1,451,132 more than the record pre-drought figure of 10,370,565 for 1943. 3,145,768 (3,084,554) wethers; 153,204 (155,574) rams, 2,352,259 (2,563,979) lambs, 5,354,822 (5,480,187) breeding and 815,644 (752,220) other ewes were recorded.

LAMBING 1953. 4,948,818 (4,988,882) ewes were mated and 3,441,745 (3,806,509) lambs were marked, giving a lambing percentage of 69.55 (76.30). The record number of lambs marked was 3,806,509 in 1952 and the record percentage was 78.68 in 1917.

LAMBING 1954. 5,121,972 (5,308,251) ewes were reported to have been mated or intended to be mated for lambing during 1954 (1953), 4,016,321 (4,235,103) to merino, corriedale or polwarth rams and 1,105,651 (1,073,148) to rams of other breeds.

WOOL-CLIP. 13,071,624 (12,983,627) sheep and lambs were reported to have been shorn, the total clip including crutchings, etc. being 131,000,000 (144,100,000) lbs. The total wool production for the State, including wool fellmongered and wool on skins exported, would be 145,000,000 (158,650,000) lbs. The total wool production is valued at approximately £44,500,000 (£48,580,000). The average price per lb. for greasy wool at the Adelaide Sales was 75.22d. (74.98d).

CATTLE. All kinds 488,235 (482,578) increase 5,657. The previous record number was 482,578 in 1953. Dairying cows 187,236 (183,032) were classified as follows - in milk 106,461 (100,880) dry 53,532 (55,076) and springing heifers 27,243 (27,076). Other cattle included other dairy heifers 19,622 (18,865) dairy calves 38,620 (41,694) dairy bulls 8,530 (8,342) beef cows and heifers 108,937 (111,898) beef calves 50,896 (50,704) beef bulls 5,164 (4,592) and other beef cattle 64,123 (63,451). Total dairying cattle 259,115 (251,933) beef cattle 229,120 (230,645). Included in the dairy cattle were 5,107 "other" dairy cattle (including dairy calves and culled dairy cows, etc. for slaughter or sale) which would have been included under other headings in previous years.

DAIRY PRODUCTION. Provisional figures for the year ended June, 1954 are as follows: Butter 17,600,000 (17,880,959) lbs., cheese 26,000,000 (23,416,410) lbs. and Bacon and Ham 6,450,000 (6,370,203) lbs. Grand total milk production was estimated to be 85,500,000 (84,250,000) gallons compared with the record of 93,500,000 in 1946-47. During recent years the average milk production per cow in milk and dry has been over 500 gallons.

HORSES. 51,852 (57,354) of which foals were 2,704 (2,584) draught 17,955 (22,905) and other 31,193 (31,865). The number of horses is only about 26% of the number (200,870) in 1936, and is the lowest number since 1860. The maximum number was 283,641 in 1913.

PIGS. 60,551 (58,657) of which there were 1,784 (1,729) boars, 9,969 (8,982) breeding sows, all other 48,798 (47,946). The number of pigs in 1953 was the lowest since 1897. The maximum number was 190,068 in 1940.

GOYDER'S LINE AND LIVESTOCK. Outside Goyder's Line there were 2,957,618 (3,283,618) sheep, 153,316 (167,208) cattle and 17,402 (18,513) horses while inside there were 8,864,079 (8,752,896) sheep, 334,919 (315,370) cattle and 34,450 (38,841) horses. During the last 20 years there have been only slight variations in the percentages of livestock outside and inside the line. The percentages outside for 1954 were sheep, 25.02 (27.28) cattle, 31.40 (34.65) horses 33.56 (32.28).

SLAUGHTERINGS for years ended June 1954 (1953) have been sheep 1,588,711 (1,594,748) lambs 1,040,269 (1,162,826) cattle and calves 217,751 (189,179) and pigs 102,634 (115,517).

MORTALITY LOSSES, ETC. The reported losses from drought and all other causes were:- Sheep 555,755 (502,404), cattle 14,727 (15,590), horses 2,104 (2,217) and pigs 3,159 (3,217).

LIVESTOCK AS AT MARCH 31st 1954 COMPARED WITH MARCH 31st 1953.

DIVISION	SHEEP		CATTLE		HORSES	PIGS
	1954	1953	1954	1953	1954	1954
Central	2,574,779	2,618,508	152,600	145,606	15,289	29,727
Lower North	1,777,232	1,898,227	30,916	31,234	6,064	12,405
Upper North	1,012,565	1,172,087	14,974	17,360	3,817	2,174
South Eastern	2,482,380	2,270,264	123,351	112,301	6,212	4,057
Western	1,980,967	2,018,667	14,908	14,431	6,405	5,576
Murray Mallee	1,055,798	1,092,640	25,000	24,621	4,198	6,599
Total Counties	10,883,721	11,070,393	361,749	345,553	41,985	60,538
Outside Counties	937,976	966,121	126,486	137,025	9,867	13
Total State	11,821,697	12,036,514	488,235	482,578	51,852	60,551
Increase	- 214,817	566,426	5,657	45,110	-5,502	1,894

During the last 3 years sheep numbers in the South Eastern Division have increased by 640,000 and cattle by 31,000. During the same period sheep on Kangaroo Island have increased from 117,196 to 172,735 and cattle from 1,727 to 3,102.

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17th August, 1954.